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HOUSE BILL NO. 2297

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE (Proposed by the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns on February 4, 2011)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Englin)

A BILL to require private water companies in Virginia to provide notice prior to suspending water services.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. Prior to stopping the supply of water for any reason, including but not limited to late payment of fees, charges, or interest, any private water company supplying water for the use on real estate in the Commonwealth shall send notice to the owner, lessee, or tenant that water service will be terminated on a certain date, no less than 30 days from the date of such notice. This notice shall also contain contact information for the owner, lessee, or tenant to use to reinstate water service. At the time the water supply is terminated, the individual terminating the service shall provide the current occupant a written notice that the water service will be suspended that day, and shall provide him, in writing, contact information to use to reinstate water service. If the occupant is not present to receive such notice, the written notice shall be posted on the front door of the affected real estate.

The water supply to or for any person, or for use on real estate of any person, shall not be shut off or stopped if the State Health Commissioner, upon application of the local board of health or health officer of the locality in which such water is supplied or such real estate is located, has found and certifies to the private water company charged with the responsibility of ceasing to supply or sell such water, or to shut off the supply of such water, that ceasing to supply or shutting off such water supply will endanger the health of such person or the health of others in the locality.